

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05 H-02 INR-10
L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-02 SP-02 SS-15 ICA-20
ACDA-12 TRSE-00 /089 W
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P R 122242Z APR 78
FM AMEMBASSY OTTAWA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 7016
INFO AMEMBASSY ANKARA
AMEMBASSY ATHENS
AMEMBASSY BONN
AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS
AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN
AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMEMBASSY LUXEMBOURG
AMEMBASSY OSLO
AMEMBASSY REYKJAVIK
AMEMBASSY ROME
AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE
USMISSION USNATO

UNCLAS OTTAWA 1868

C O R R E C T E D C O P Y (ADDITIONAL INFO ADDRESSEES)

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: MPOL, MNUC, PARM, PEPR, CA
SUBJECT: CANADIAN POSITION ON NEUTRON BOMB

IN RESPONSE TO QUESTION BY (OPPOSITION) PROGRESSIVE
CONSERVATIVE DEFENSE CRITIC MC KINNON, JACQUES GUILBAULT,
PARLIAMENTARY SECRETARY TO MINISTER OF NATIONAL DEFENSE,
MADE FOLLOWING STATEMENT APRIL 11 IN HOUSE OF COMMONS:

"MR. SPEAKER, CANADA HAS ALREADY SPOKEN OUT IN REGARD
TO THE NEUTRON BOMB. THE GOVERNMENT WAS ASKED WHAT
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POSITION CANADA WAS TAKING IN NATO ON THE NEUTRON
BOMB. WHILE CANADA HAS NO PLANS TO ACQUIRE SUCH WEAPONS,
WE HAVE BEEN PARTICIPATING IN DISCUSSIONS AT NATO
HEADQUARTERS IN BRUSSELS REGARDING THE POSSIBLE
ACQUISITION BY CERTAIN NATO COUNTRIES OF ENHANCED
RADIATION, REDUCED-BLAST NUCLEAR WEAPONS. THESE DIS-
CUSSIONS ARE CONTINUING.

"THE MILITARY USEFULNESS OF THE WEAPON IS NOT IN QUESTION BUT, LIKE OUR ALLIES, CANADA IS ALSO CONSCIOUS THAT ITS POSSIBLE ACQUISITION RAISES COMPLEX QUESTIONS WHICH MUST BE EXAMINED WITH CARE. ANY DECISION REGARDING THESE WEAPONS WILL NOT BE TAKEN LIGHTLY.

"THE DECISION TO PRODUCE THE RB/ERW HAS BEEN FROM THE VERY BEGINNING ONE FOR THE UNITED STATES. THE CANADIAN GOVERNMENT IS FULLY CONSCIOUS OF THE DILEMMA WHICH PRESIDENT CARTER HAS BEEN FACING IN THE LAST SEVERAL MONTHS REGARDING THE PRODUCTION OF THE RB/ERW AND WE SEE MERIT IN DEFERRING THE DECISION. IN OUR DELIBERATIONS, THE SUGGESTION OF PLACING THE WEAPON IN AN ARMS CONTROL CONTEXT HAS NOT TROUBLED US AND WE ARE LOOKING FORWARD TO PARTICIPATION IN FUTURE CONSULTATION ON THIS MATTER WITH OUR NATO ALLIES."
ENDERS

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NNN

Message Attributes

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